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| **Date:** | 29 February 2012 |
| **Subject:** | Hats off to the NBN |

Students of fashion will soon be using the latest technology to connect with trainers and fashion industry experts via the National Broadband Network (NBN).

The ‘Hats off to the NBN’ project will provide students of the Certificate IV in Millinery with industry exposure to develop their skills and knowledge, enabling them to develop networks for job opportunities while giving industry access to new designers with fresh ideas in fashion.

The project is piloting the integration of NBN technology into the Kangan Institute Hub, a new facility that provides a national point for members of the fashion world across Australia to access state-of-the-art technology, lectures and information about the industry. The use of the NBN high speed connection will allow the creation of a virtual face-to-face teaching and mentoring facility.

Access to the latest technology and fashion industry experts is central to the success of the Textile and Fashion Hub, which was established in conjunction with the Textiles and Fashion Industry Association of Australia.

Information from the workshops conducted as part of this trial will inform processes to improve access to industry experts and demonstrate the advantages of developing partnerships between industry and education. Data from the process of connecting, delivering and coordinating the NBN will also inform the development of models using broadband/high bandwidth-based VET delivery, thereby encouraging future growth in NBN access.

This project has been made possible through funding from the National VET E-learning Strategy, whose NBN E-learning Programs provide opportunitiesto create innovative approaches to demonstrate the power of broadband to enhance outcomes for learners, and promote growth in broadband-based training as the NBN rollout proceeds.

“Students currently have little opportunity to connect with fashion industry experts, so this direct connection to designers will boost their learning around millinery design, forecasting of fashion trends, ethical principles, sustainability and environmental practices,” says National NBN Programs Manager Fiona Huskinson.

“The students will participate as if they were in a studio, listening to presenters and being given the opportunity for question and answer sessions.”

The National VET E-learning Strategy is the responsibility of the Flexible Learning Advisory Group (FLAG), a key policy advisory group on national directions and priorities for information and communication technologies in the VET sector.

“By sponsoring e-learning programs at NBN sites, we are expanding participation and access for learners, stimulating innovative approaches to training and employment, and improving the skill levels of the Australian workforce,” says FLAG Chair Raymond Garrand, Chief Executive of the South Australian Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

“We are excited at the high quality of these projects, which demonstrate the strong interest in increasing participation in training and improving skill levels in the workforce.”

Kangan Institute's Centre of Fashion offers courses in all aspects of clothing and fashion manufacturing from concept, design, pattern-making, manufacturing and promotion through to in-house fashion shows.

**Core statements for editorial use**

* The National VET E-learning Strategy 2012-2015 (‘the Strategy’) is aimed at strengthening the Australian training sector’s use of new learning technologies, stimulating innovative approaches to increasing participation in training and employment, and improving the skill levels of the Australian workforce
* Investment in the Strategy will stimulate innovative approaches to increasing participation in training and improve the skill levels of the Australian workforce
* To enable the three-year program of action, government funding has been approved to:
* capitalise on the rollout of the National Broadband Network by demonstrating the benefits of the national investment in broadband
* support large-scale workforce development in industry through partnerships and comprehensive e-learning advice
* expand participation and access for individuals through e-learning programs delivering foundation skills and e-literacy
* The Strategy is managed by the Flexible Learning Advisory Group (FLAG), a key policy advisory group on national directions and priorities for information and communication technologies in the VET sector
* The chair of FLAG is Mr Raymond Garrand, Chief Executive of the South Australian Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

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